

REMARKS

Claim 24 has been amended to more precisely recite Applicants' invention. Support for the amendment to claim 24 may be found in the specification, at least, at paragraph [0078] and FIG. 1. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-25 remain pending.

In the Office Action dated April 18, 2005, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyajima (US 2005/0073663). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 24 recites a lithographic apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a vacuum chamber enclosing at least one of a support structure, a substrate table, and a projection system, and a base frame on which at least one of a plurality of components of the apparatus which may cause motion or heat to be generated in the apparatus, is mounted. As recited by claim 24, the base frame defines at least a part of the vacuum chamber. Miyajima does not disclose or suggest a lithographic apparatus with these features.

Miyajima discloses an exposure apparatus with a vacuum chamber (3) that accommodates the entire apparatus. (Miyajima at [0029] and FIG. 1.) Miyajima does not disclose or suggest a lithographic apparatus that includes a vacuum chamber and a base frame that defines at least a part of the vacuum chamber, as recited by claim 24.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 24 is patentable over Miyajima, and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 24 be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1-23 and 25 have been allowed. However, in view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is also allowable and that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains at issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily T. Bell', written in a cursive style.

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